

## IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION MONITORING TOOL AT EUROPEAN UNION LEVEL

OTILIA CHIRIȚĂ,

PHD. STUDENT, BUCHAREST ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES,

e-mail: chirita.otilia@yahoo.com

### **Abstract**

*The refugee crisis from 2015-2016 generated the resizing of the perspectives on immigrant integration management, building new subjects about demographic change and economic impact of immigration before and after 2016.*

*The need to permanently improve the tools for monitoring immigrant integration in the European context is more pressing in the light of the new hypotheses launched by specialists who are claiming that immigration is the main driver of inequality in the labor market damaging the set of values and cultures of a society.*

*The immigration concept covers multiple status of the “new comer”: asylum seeker, refugee or economic immigrant are the most important concepts which can have an impact on the socio-economical structure of a community. In this context, the political framework is the modulator of immigration flow in every host country,*

*Starting-up by the question if there might be a general set of monitoring tools for all the european host country is important to verify to which extend there might exist the same approach for all European countries when it comes about immigration management.*

**Keywords:** immigrant, integration, employment, income, naturalisation, labor markets

**Classification JEL:** F22, J15, J61

### **1. Introduction and study's context**

Optimizing and adapting the tools in order to monitor the integration process of immigrants is the central theme of the European agenda. Following the adoption of the Hague Program in 2004, the need to monitor the integration process of immigrants became stringent and the need to develop forecasting capacity in the field has generated multiple analyzes and debates on the integration of immigrants.

European indicators have been correlated with indicators on international integration cooperation, which has shown that immigrants are a particularly vulnerable group, therefore, the Council of Europe focuses its attention on social inclusion.

The Hague Program, which is focused on the period 2004-2009 with clear directions in the fields of Justice, Security and Freedom, is based on 11 reference principles. One of the most important principles is Principle 11, which represents a call to all Member States in order to design "indicators and evaluation mechanisms for policy adjustment, progress assessment and more effective information sharing." (UNHCR, pg.8-9 , 2013).

Is already admitted in academic research that integration itself does not lend itself to the general definitions that have been launched over time.

It is also admitted that sustainable campaigns on immigrants' monitoring where implemented in few member states.

It is important to underline that the integration process can not be universally dealt with and applied by all host countries. In this case, it is necessary to analyze the socio-economic, demographic and geopolitical indicators applied by each host country in order to determine the size that the integration phenomenon could achieve.

Refugee integration capacity can be assessed by: analyzing the availability of integration, the institutional capacity of each sector (especially education and health), in relation to the demographic evolution of the area, the labor market needs, and the position of citizens towards newcomers.

The first steps on monitoring the immigrants' integration were made by Zaragoza Declaration, adopted in 2010 which aimed to undertake a pilot study in order to monitor immigrants' situation by established indicators. The indicators of migrant integration were set for each policy area as presented below:

Table 1: Integration migrant indicators by policy area

Policy area	Indicators
Employment	Core indicators: employment rate unemployment rate Activity rate
Education	Core indicators: highest educational attainment (share of population with tertiary, secondary and primary or less than primary education) share of low-achieving 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science share of 30-40-year-olds with tertiary educational attainment share of early leavers from education and training
Social inclusion	Core indicators: median net income-the median net income of the immigrant population as a proportion of the median net income of the total population at risk of poverty rate- share with net disposable income of less than 60 per cent of nation median
Active citizenship	Core indicators: the share of immigrants that have acquired citizenship the share of immigrants holding permanent or long-term residence permits the share of immigrants among elected representatives

Source: Indicators of immigrant integration, pg,10, Zaragoza Declaration

Immigrants' economical impact might be followed-up by monitoring each type of indicator and can reveal the trend of the phenomenon across time and area.

Regarding the economic migration, studies show that “ there are significant differences related to the challenges faced the MS in terms of international migration” (N. Marcu, M. Siminica, G.G. Noja, M. Cristea. C.E Dobrotă, pg.5).

## 2. Immigrant integration monitoring tool at European Union level

Analysis of immigration integration monitoring tools implies, in this article's terms, the valorisation of progress made by member countries to improve the situation of the refugees crisis and the generation of alternatives capable of facilitating the integration of immigrants in host countries.

Immigrant integration monitoring tools are defined according to the areas directly involved in the immigrant integration process (education, social environment, labor market).

The purpose of this paper is to analyze and explain the advantages of permanent calibration of immigration monitoring tools.

The analysis of immigration monitoring tools will be addressed in the light of the common indicators on integration of immigrants, as identified and mentioned in the Zaragoza Declaration adopted in April 2010.

The study will analyze the situation of immigrant integration in Europe, according to the latest data provided by The Third Migration Observatory Report - Immigrant Integration in Europe and Eurostat.

The main results of the paper highlight the size and the current state of the integration initiatives of immigrants in the EU space, including Romania, starting with the refugee crisis period from 2015-2016.

The statistics about the immigrants` employment reveals that in most of European guest countries they have a lower employment probability compared to natives even the immigration countries are interested in ensuring the socio-economical inclusion.

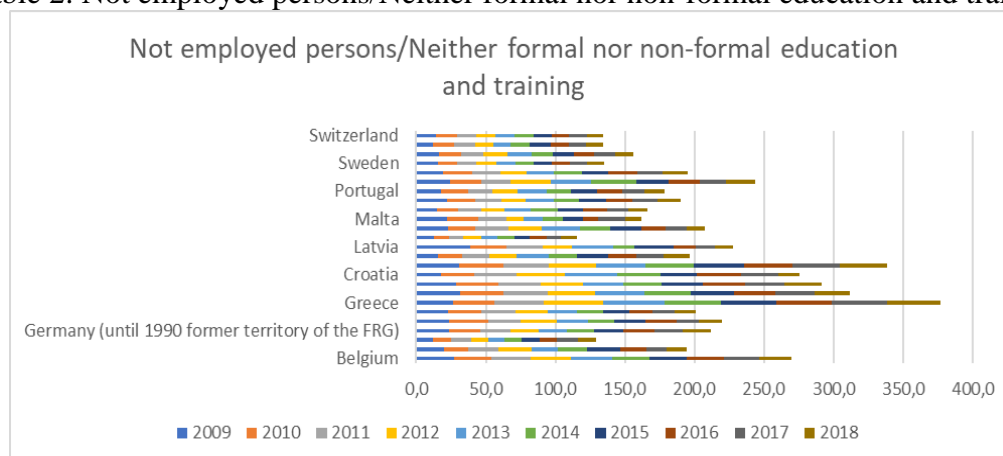
A clear distinction is needed between the integration of immigrants in the labor market and the asylum seekers. If the migrants for economic purpose choose the host country mainly for opportunities, the asylum seekers have to accept primarily the asylum status offered by the host country, undergoing the integration program imposed according to the national legislation.

From a cost-benefit point of view, economic migration, as a rule, has an immediate and positive impact on the labor market in the host country. At the opposite pole you can find asylum seekers who, by the nature of the obtained status, are cost generators from the beginning, and by long term they might generate a positive contribution to the labor market.

Closely related to the labor market insertion process is the level of education that they have in relation to the citizens of the host country. In the West European countries, the number of poorly qualified immigrants has registered a significant increase in recent years.

Bottom line, a negative impact has the unemployed persons which are neither formal nor non-formal education and training. The european statistics highlight an impressive percentage in Italy in Greece, at least, for 2018.

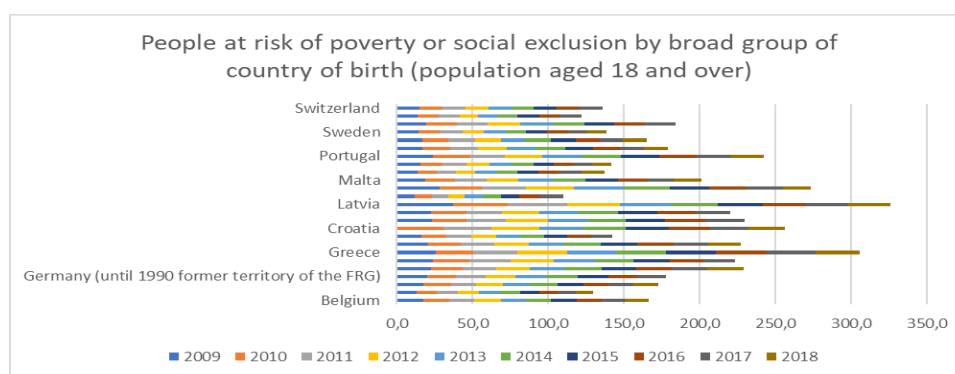
Table 2: Not employed persons/Neither formal nor non-formal education and training



Source: author`s chart using Eurostat data for the period 2009-2018, 25EU, immigrants indicators

In accordance with data about people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by broad group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over) Greece still recorded the highest percentage especially for the period 2013-2018, which might be linked with the period of immigration crisis.

Table 3: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by broad group of country birth



Source: author`s chart using Eurostat data for the period 2009-2018, 25EU, immigrants indicators

In Italy`s case the fact are explained by the perspective that it passed over a long period of underperformance economy, with temporary contracts trend linked to a pension reform starting with 2012.

Regarding the involvement of immigrants in the labor market in Romania, according to a study carried out by the Research and Documentation Center in the field of Immigration Integration, less than 10% of immigrants are employed and their number is 0,3% of total population.

The primary objective regarding the educational system dedicated to immigrants at European level is to improve the level of education for the first two generations.

In order to obtain efficient results in relation to the insertion of immigrants in the education system, the ministries of education must facilitate "horizontal coordination and interdepartmental projects with other ministries". ([https://ec.europa.eu/migrant\\_integration/?action=media\\_download](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant_integration/?action=media_download)).

In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Member States have extended the right to education for children of primary or secondary school age. Access to quality education is often difficult to obtain for immigrant children in the sense that there is a causal link between the living area and the quality of the education.

As most immigrants do not live in well-rated areas with prestigious schools, access to quality education can be difficult to obtain. The efficient solution to stop this discrepancy between the living area and to obtain a quality educational level is to provide a special system dedicated to multi-ethnic schools.

Another essential criteria in the effective approach of the education system dedicated to immigrants is the creation of a consolidated mechanism for evaluating knowledge and skills.

For example, in France, there is a service dedicated to assessing the level of education and language skills in a language understood by children.

Meanwhile, in Belgium, refugees who cannot prove the level of education will give a statement on their own responsibility in this regard.

In England, the Starting Point project addresses "new comers" through an introduction mechanism in the British education system in order to increase the skills for a better educational evolution.

Analysing the indicator of social cohesion, there are two essential aspects to be analyzed: discrimination level from immigrant`s perspective and the opinion of citizens of the host country about immigrants presence. Social cohesion involves the full participation of immigrants in the life of the host community and covers dimensions such as value, identity, culture, ability to manage political diversity. Social cohesion supposes the recognition of human right as well and the right for legal work. Unfortunately, the immigrants are the most vulnerable segment of population when

it comes about work; the majority accept any kind of activity , employers taking advantage in terms of profit even “ profit is a consequence of risk” (L.Buse, M. Siminica, D. Circiumaru, N. Marcu). Positive discrimination as part of socio-economic cohesion is expressed at European level through the recruitment practices of young immigrants. An example of good practice in addressing positive discrimination was applied by Belgium, through the Rosetta Plan program reimburses part of the social insurance contribution if the employer chooses at least 3% of the employees to be among young people or immigrant children.

### **3. Conclusions**

Permanent calibration of the integration assessment tools aims to identify good practices, integration gaps and clarify and improve policies in this field. The lack of coherent measures to integrate immigrants has the effect of generating institutional bottlenecks, the emergence of social problems. The primary risk of managing a large number of immigrants determines the dependence on crime sources of all forms of crime (economic crime, social criminality, deviance, juvenile delinquency) for sources of subsistence. In order to cope with the future changes that will result from the acceptance of new immigrants, it is necessary to continuously calibrate the indicators of monitoring the immigration phenomenon.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- [1] **D. Muray**, The Strange Death of Europe, Immigration, Identity, Islam, 2005;
- [2] **L. Bușe, M. Siminica, D. Circiumaru, N. Marcu**, Analiză economico-financiară, ed. Economică, București, 2005;
- [3] **N. Marcu, G. G. Noja, S.M. Cristea, M. Siminică, C.E. Dobrotă**, Migrants' Integration on the European Labor Market: A Spatial Bootstrap, SEM and Network Approach, 2018;
- [4] \*\*\*<https://eurlex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52005DC0669>, European Commission, (2005). COM(2005) 669, Communication from the Commission: „Policy Plan on Legal Migration” {SEC(2005)1680}, Bruxelles;
- [5] \*\*\*<https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/?action=media.download&uuid=6029BE3B-BA11-8819-91588E4093F98A19>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Migration Observatory Report “Immigrant Integration in Europe”, February 2019;
- [6] \*\*\*[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics%23Basis\\_for\\_data\\_collection](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics%23Basis_for_data_collection);
- [7] \*\*\*<https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/?action=media.download>